

of the last Congress. All of us who knew and loved Sid were saddened by his recent death. He was a soft-spoken leader who demonstrated time and again his unequivocal commitment to his constituents in Chicago and his unwavering respect for the nation's best principles. He was a public servant in the truest and most noble sense, and he was a powerful inspiration to all of us who were fortunate enough to work with him.

During his years as Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Sid skillfully advanced legislation to sustain and protect our national parks and historic sites. He was a brilliant legislator who has done more to preserve our national historic and cultural legacy than any other member of Congress.

Sid was also well known as Congress's leading advocate for the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities. He was a strong and courageous defender of these important agencies. Especially during times of controversy over the agencies, he spoke effectively and persuasively to preserve their vital programs. Because of Sid Yates, art and music and dance and theater are now more accessible to families across the nation through their schools and in their cultural institutions. It's an outstanding legacy, and I know I join my colleagues in Congress in a commitment to honor Sid Yates' memory with a renewed effort to support the Endowments.

Sid Yates will long be remembered as a man who brought graciousness, integrity and civility to public service. He is a patriot who is deeply missed here in Congress as well as in his beloved Chicago. I commend all that he accomplished, and all of us are grateful for his five decades of selfless and principled public service. He will be remembered fondly for many years to come.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun safety legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

October 31, 1999:

Francisco Aguillon, 31, Chicago, IL;
Helton Calderio, 42, Detroit, MI;
Lashon Carter, 18, Kansas City, MO;

Archie Dean, 29, Pittsburgh, PA;
Roland Ford, 15, Washington, DC;
Eddie Griffith, Sr., 71, Memphis, TN;
Richard Hall, 19, Pittsburgh, PA;
Larry Lavigne, 22, New Orleans, LA;
Willie Matthews, 48, Oakland, CA;
Preston Noble, 25, Philadelphia, PA;
William Ohlig, 21, Philadelphia, PA;
Billijo M. Pyle, 51, Akron, OH;
Derrick Smith, 20, Rochester, NY;
Doniell Smith, 14, Washington, DC;
Gene Thompkins, 57, Akron, OH; and
Jorge Vega, 34, Miami-Dade County, FL.

Two of the victims of gun violence I mentioned, 15-year-old Roland Ford and 14-year-old Doniell Smith of Washington, D.C., were shot and killed by four masked gunmen while the two boys and their friends were walking back from a Halloween party hosted by their church. The gunmen fired nearly 30 shots into the group, injuring two and killing Roland and Doniell. A police department representative described the two boys as "strait-laced kids who weren't involved in any negative activity in the community."

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR HONORING WWII VETERANS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to commend the Idaho youth who have honored World War II veterans in recent months. Several Idaho high schools, including Pocatello High School, Highland High School, and Century High School, as well as Bosie high School, have become tremendously involved in Operation Recognition. In addition, students at Eagle High School have fundraised extensively for the National WWII Memorial that will be placed on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Operation Recognition is a new program through which honorary high school diplomas are awarded to WWII veterans. The veterans who receive these diplomas left for service in the war before they completed their studies. The gesture of awarding an honorary diploma is a way to thank veterans and demonstrate appreciation for the sacrifices that they made.

Students whose high schools award honorary diplomas often assist in planning the details of the ceremony. In the process of developing memorable and personal additions to the graduation, these young people learn about the war and its historical significance.

Pocatello High School has selected December 7th of this year, which is the 59th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, as

the date of its ceremony for graduating veterans. Honorary diplomas will also be awarded to those who attended nearby Highland High School and Century High School. As part of the festivities, one student from each high school will interview a veteran who attended his or her school. The graduates and their families are invited to stay after the ceremony for a reunion. Students have been asked to help decorate the stage and escort attendees to their seats.

The Boise High School History Club is already preparing for the April 17, 2001, Boise High veterans' graduation. Students in the club have done exhaustive research to find eligible veterans. They have also been working to publicize the event, preparing a yearbook for each graduating veteran, and making arrangements for a homeroom mentor program. The students are arranging speaking opportunities for the veterans and a range of social activities, including a cookout. Idaho State Veterans Home Volunteer Coordinator, Tom Ressler, says that the goal is to establish a relationship between veterans and students before the graduation.

Eagle High School students showed their appreciation for WWII veterans by raising more than twenty-three thousand dollars for the National WWII Memorial. Their year-and-a-half fundraising effort proved to be the most successful of all our nation's high schools. The enthusiastically-run fundraising campaign included candy sales, a giant tag sale, and concession stands. The students also marched in parades and ran advertisements on television.

Eleventh grade American history teacher, Gail Chumbley, and student chairs Fil Southerland and Kate Bowen spearheaded the initiative. Ms. Chumbley reported that the fundraising campaign has motivated many students to learn about WWII outside of class. Ms. Chumbley, Mr. Southerland, and Ms. Bowen will present The National Campaign Chairman, Senator Bob Dole, with a commemorative check at the monument's groundbreaking ceremony that will be held on Veterans' Day this year.

I take great pride in the fact that members of the youngest generation of Idahoans, who have grown up in a time of relative peace and unprecedented prosperity for our country, take time to honor our nation's WWII veterans. Through their endeavors, these students have learned much about WWII. In the process, they have heightened their community's awareness of this important part of American history and the brave people who were part of it. ●